

21 November 1984

CIA FILES FCC COMPLAINT AGAINST ABC ON REWALD CASE

The Central Intelligence Agency on 21 November 1984 filed a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission against the American Broadcasting Company in which it alleges that ABC deliberately distorted the news and violated the Fairness Doctrine. During a series of broadcasts in September 1984 on the Ronald Rewald fraud case, ABC World News Tonight falsely and without foundation charged that the CIA had conspired to assassinate US citizens and had committed other unauthorized and illegal acts. The complaint further alleges that ABC only presented evidence supporting its predetermined position that CIA was at fault and ignored contradictory evidence.

The CIA has taken this action only after careful consideration and after several requests to have ABC correct its error. Today ABC informed CIA that it would air a short statement accepting CIA's denial of one of the charges of attempted assassination, but has refused to address any other aspect of its broadcasts. CIA has requested that the FCC conduct an appropriate inquiry, make findings on all the issues, and determine what corrective actions should be taken by ABC.

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